

Letter of support for the Winterbourne Wind Farm (proposal ID SSD-10471).

- Walcha is leading the way with hosting a Wind Farm in its LGA and will help with reducing the impact of climate change with the production of renewable energy.
- Walcha's economy will get a huge boost from the project with job and employment opportunities as well as the Community Benefit Fund being invested in local groups and organisations for the life of the project.
- Farmers will also have more disposable income to spend at local businesses and to help them manage drought and extreme weather events into the future.
- The community consultation process from Vestas has been great. They have been at the local show the past 3 years, had two open days the last 12 months with both being open for 2 days. They have also communicated with 11 double page Project Updates in the local Advocate paper over the last 18 months to 2 years. All of this has given lots of information to the whole community about the project considering that at times there were COVID restrictions in place.
- The local Council will have many opportunities to generate extra income from the project with the sale of waste water, road and infrastructure upgrades as well the carting of many of the materials required for construction and maintenance.
- Many of the host landholders have children and with the payments they will receive will give them some financial security into the future and give them the opportunity to be able to pass on the family farms to the next generation with peace of mind.
- With on-farm quarries most likely being established during the construction period, this will also be another source of income for landholders and having materials on-farm to help with infrastructure upgrades. These quarries may also be available for council use after the construction period.
- Many of the local roads and some of the local highways will also get upgraded which will be of great benefit to the local transport industry as well as the whole community.
- With the transition away from coal fired power over the next few years, a project like this one will help fill the gap of electricity that will have been taken out of the grid. It is very important that this project goes ahead with some of the power stations having their output reduced during 2022.